

Parshat Behar-Bechukotai

Hashem Provides for Everyone

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In Parshat Behar, the Torah teaches us about the importance of observing the Mitzvah of Shemita, the Sabbatical year in Israel. The Torah states that when one observes Shemita, he will be awarded with a crop that will last three years. The Torah also says that when one observes Shemita, the little food that he eats will satiate him in order to last for the entire year. This appears to be a contradiction. On the one hand, the Torah is teaching us that when one keeps the Mitzvah of Shemita, he will be rewarded with a booming crop. On the other hand, the Torah is telling us that when one observes Shemita, the minute amount of food that he eats will nourish him enough to last the entire year. Which reward is it? The Seforno explains that the Torah is talking about two different people: one who has bitachon, faith, in Hashem and one who does not have a lot of bitachon. One who has bitachon will eat a little and that food will satiate him for the year. One who is nervous about what the year will bring and does not have a lot of bitachon, Hashem will take care of him as well by rewarding him with a crop that lasts three years. One may ask that the opposite should occur. One who has trust in Hashem should be rewarded with a booming crop and not the one who does not have a lot of trust in Hashem. The answer is that Hashem cares and provides for everyone. Rabbi Zev Leff gives an example of a family who has many children. All of them expect for one give nachat to the parents while one of them possesses many challenges. The question is: who will the parents focus more of their attention on? The answer is that they will focus more on the child with challenges. Why not focus more on the other children? Shouldn't they be rewarded with more attention? The answer is that they do not need attention because they are independent and do not require assistance. Similarly, in our case, one who is nervous and does not have a lot of faith, Hashem gives him

special attention by rewarding him with a prosperous crop. The lesson of the Mitzvah of Shemita is to have faith in Hashem as Hashem provides for everyone.